

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A unitary membrane for use in a pressing apparatus, comprising:

a continuous belt having a predetermined total permeability;

a pair of longitudinal edge portions on said belt; and

a semipermeable portion having a plurality of intercommunicating pores, said

5 semipermeable portion being positioned on said belt between said pair of longitudinal edge portions,

wherein said unitary membrane comprises a formed fabric, said unitary membrane having a thickness less than about 0.1 inches, and wherein said semipermeable portion is both gas and liquid permeable, and has a total permeability greater than zero and less than about five CFM per

10 square foot as measured by TAPPI test method TIP 0404-20.

2. (currently amended) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said semipermeable portion has a total permeability greater than zero and less than about two CFM per square foot as measured by TAPPI test method TIP 0404-20.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said total permeability is determined by at least one of a size, a shape, a frequency and a pattern of a plurality of pores in said semipermeable portion.

4. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said pair of longitudinal edge portions are tapered such that a cross-section of said unitary membrane has a trapezoidal shape.

5. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said pair of longitudinal edge portions are impermeable.
6. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said formed fabric forms a flow resistance layer near a surface of said unitary membrane.
7. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 6, wherein said unitary membrane further comprises a fluid distribution layer adjacent said flow resistance layer.
8. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, further comprising a surface which is abrasion resistant.
9. (original) The unitary membrane of claim 1, wherein said semipermeable portion has a void percentage of less than 40 percent.

10-19 (cancelled)